

Professor and Head of the Social Sciences Department, U.S. Military Academy, West Point; and public witnesses.

SCIENCE EDUCATION/RESEARCH BUDGET

Committee on Science and Technology: Held a hearing on Funding for the America COMPETES Act in the Fiscal Year 2009 Administration Budget Request. Testimony was heard from James H. Marburger, III, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy.

BUSINESS ACTIVITY TAXES

Committee on Small Business: Held a hearing entitled "Business Activity Taxes and their Impact on Small Businesses." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EPA BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing on Revitalization of the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Program. Testimony was heard from Susan Parker Bodine, Assistant Administrator, Solid Waste and Emergency Response, EPA; and public witnesses.

VA'S CLAIMS PROCESSING SYSTEM

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing on Examining the VA's Claims Processing System. Testimony was heard from Daniel Bertoni, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues, GAO; the following officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs: Michael Walcoff, Deputy Under Secretary, Benefits; Diana Rubens, Associate Deputy Under Secretary, Field Operations; and Bradley G. Mayes, Director, Compensation and Pension Service, both with the Veterans Benefits Administration; representatives of veterans organizations; and public witnesses.

TRADE PREFERENCE EXTENSION ACT OF 2008; COMMITTEE'S VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

Committee on Ways and Means: Ordered reported H.R. 5264, Trade Preference Extension Act of 2008.

The Committee also approved Committee Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2009 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

MEDICARE BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2009

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on the Medicare portions of the President's fiscal year 2009 budget. Testimony was heard from Kerry Weems, Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services.

BRIEFING—OVERHEAD

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to receive a briefing on Overhead. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

FIRE AND RAIN—HOW TROPICAL FORESTS' DESTRUCTION IS FUELING CLIMATE CHANGE

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming: Held a hearing entitled "Fire and Rain: How the Destruction of Tropical Forests is Fueling Climate Change." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D119)

H.R. 5140, to provide economic stimulus through recovery rebates to individuals, incentives for business investment, and an increase in conforming and FHA loan limits. Signed on February 13, 2008. (Public Law 110-185)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2008

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing on the status of the implementation of the Army's medical action plan and other services' support for wounded service members, 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.